

**Advisory Council for  
Asian Pacific American Affairs  
August 8, 2005 Summary**

On August 8, 2005, the Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs held its second meeting in the Detroit Office of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. This meeting began with a presentation by Teri Takai, Director of the Michigan Department of Information Technology (DIT). The DIT provides technology support services to all areas of Michigan State government. Director Takai shared that DIT's strategic plan is to expand Michigan's services to reach anyone, anytime from anywhere and that residents have increased their use of Michigan.gov's online services by 54% since 2002.

The Council also heard from Horatio Vargus, Race Relations Division of New Detroit, regarding the recent offensive editorial cartoons in the Dearborn Press and Oakland Press. According to Mr. Vargus, a meeting was held with one of the newspapers to discuss concerns over the publishing of these cartoons. In addition to the meeting, a press conference and multicultural demonstration against Heritage Newspapers, was attended by about 50 adults and children from local agencies. The newspapers indicated they would invite members of the minority community to serve on their advisory boards.

The Council also heard from Ray Kauffman from the Chinese American Schools of Metropolitan Detroit. Mr. Kauffman and his colleagues provided information about Kid Corps, which was formed to reach and provide services to all ethnic, racial and religious groups. There is to be a national art contest for Asian American students, prizes will be given to the winners of each age group and their art work will be displayed at the Berkowitz Art Gallery at the University of Michigan, Detroit. Other programming will include a demonstration by a kung fu master from China, puppet shows, teaching inner city students Mandarin and leadership and career development programs.

The Council heard reports from several of the committees within the Council established to further the work of the Council. The committees established by the Council include: Business, Civil Rights, Health, Immigration, Education and Community/Demographics. State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, who is also a member of the Council, spoke about budget cuts in the legislature, and the Council discussed the loss of a specific budget item within the Department of Community health that is used to provide grants to various ethnic organizations. The Council discussed issuing a resolution to encourage the legislature to restore the multicultural line item. Under New Business, the Council approved the logo designed by Council member Dominic Pangborn.

The Advisory Council for Asian Pacific American Affairs was created by a May 2005, Executive Order from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, to advise the Governor and the Department of Civil Rights on policy matters pertaining to Asian and Pacific Americans in Michigan. H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D, was appointed Chair of the Council, which was placed administratively inside the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is available on the Governor's website at <http://www.michigan.gov/gov>.